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URBAN DISTRICT
OF
HEMSWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1959/60 - ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Cr. Mrs. E.M. Daykin, J.P., 13, Moorshutt Road, Hemsworth.
Cr. B. Attwood, 170, Tombridge Crescent, Kinsley.
Cr. L. Chapman, 110, Barnsley Road, Hemsworth.
Cr. J.P. Donelan, 2, Wakefield Road, Kinsley.
Cr. J. Fisher, 64, Chantry Croft, Kinsley.
Cr. J. Matthews, 27, Common Road, Kinsley.
Cr. H. Miles, 94, Highfield Road, Hemsworth.
Cr. J. Miles, 11, Holgate Gardens, Hemsworth.
Cr. E. Nettleton, J.P., 32, Station Road, Hemsworth.
Cr. P.J. Newton, School House, First Avenue, Fitzwilliam.
Cr. H.N. Penlington, "High Green", The Marsh, Hemsworth.
Cr. A. Richards, 6, Bronte Grove, Hemsworth.
Cr. J.F. Starling, 47, Grove Lane, Hemsworth.
Cr. E. Wheeler, 1, Grove Place, Hemsworth.
Cr. H. Langley, 33, Second Avenue, Fitzwilliam.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF (Including W.R.C.C. Services).

Medical Officer of Health, Divisional Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer for W.R.C.C. Services.

JOHN S. WALTERS, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers:

E.E. Cromb (Senior) M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
J. Hayes, M.B., Ch.B.
K. O'Beirne, M.B., Ch.B.

Part-time Clinic Medical Officers:

J.S. Laurie, M.B. Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector:

C.H. Seal, M.A.P.H.I.
S. Wheeler (Assistant).

Health Visitors/School Nurses:

Miss D. Marsh Mrs. N. Cookson (part-time)
Mrs. E.A. Goodall. Miss A. Parrott (Geriatrics only)
Assistants: Mrs. D. Clark and Mrs. J. Wilson.

Home Nurses: Mrs. J.O. Garratt. Mrs. H. Tallett.
 Mrs. E.R. Leake (Relief).

Midwives:- Miss M.L. Heyward. Mrs. D.M. Beaumont (Relief)
 Mrs. M.V. Porter. Miss M.E. Ryall.

Mental Health Social Worker: Miss M. Horsley.

Hemsworth Occupation Centre: Mrs. M.E. Towell (Supervisor),
 Mrs. G.N. Wright, Miss D. Casey,
 Mrs. S.M. Rusby, Mr. L.I. Wright.

Physiotherapist: Mrs. A. Siddle.

Speech Therapist: Vacancy.

Clerical: G. Ellis (Chief Clerk), F. Henry (Deputy Chief Clerk),
 C. Miles, Miss E.C. Banner, Mrs. W.E. Theaker,
 Miss P.M. Glew.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

Public Health Department,
Adiscombe House,
Barnsley Road,
HEMSWORTH,
near Pontefract.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Daykin and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health and health services of the Hemsworth Urban District during the year 1959. There have been some changes in the method of presenting some of the rates required by the Ministry of Health but otherwise I have followed the form of presentation of previous years.

The personal health services administered by me within your district on behalf of the West Riding County Council have been included in the report for your information and the report of your Public Health Inspector, which is complementary to this report gives a detailed account of the work of his department.

The estimated mid year population as given by the Registrar General shows an increase of exactly 100, the population being 14,250. At the end of the year the number of inhabited houses had increased by 48 to 4,147.

The number of live births fell from 304 in 1958 to 270 and there were 9 still births, three more than in 1958.

Most regrettably there was one maternal death in 1959.

Infant deaths totalled 3 for the year, none occurring in the neo-natal period and this gave the lowest Infant Mortality Rate for the district during the last 10 years.

There were 190 deaths, an increase of 20 on the previous year and the adjusted death rate was 13.2 per 1000 estimated population.

The increase in notified infectious diseases is largely accounted for by 254 cases of measles compared with 92 in 1958. Though no cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year the death of a young adult was certified as due to acute poliomyelitis. The immunisation campaign against this disease went forward steadily throughout the year but the response from young adults eligible for immunisation was very much lower than from children still under parental authority.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued at a reasonably satisfactory level.

Once again I must comment on the low acceptance of vaccination against smallpox. Although the rate for primary vaccination in the age group under one year rose from 6% in 1958 to 18% in 1959 it still falls far short of the national average of 45% and the West Riding Administrative County figure of 35%.

There was a 10% increase in acceptance of protective vaccination against tuberculosis by children in the age group 13 years found to be susceptible. Children at this age seem to be very much aware of the importance of this protective measure.

It is with great pleasure that I record my appreciation of the zeal of the medical and nursing staff in performing their duties and of the high professional standards they have set and maintained during the years.

I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the clinic voluntary workers.

The domestic help service continues to fulfil a great need, particularly for the elderly, and over the years and with only rare exceptions the staff perform their duties with cheerfulness and kindness in spite of the idiosyncrasies of some of their elderly cases.


Liaison and co-operation with the hospital service has been generally satisfactory and after-care arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act have worked well,

Finally I must express my thanks to my clerical staff and to my colleagues for their help during the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest in and support of the work of the health department during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.S. WALTERS,

Medical Officer of Health.



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PART ONE.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	4163 acres.
Rateable Value (at 31.12.59)	£99,533.
Product of 1d Rate (at 31.12.59)	£384.
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1959)	14,250.
Number inhabited houses (at 31.12.59)	4,147.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	116	141	257
Illegitimate	6	7	13
	122	148	270

LIVE BIRTH RATE.

Crude	18.9 per 1000 estimated population.
Adjusted	17.6 per 1000 estimated population.

STILL BIRTHS.	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	5	4	9

STILL BIRTH RATE	32.3 per 1000 live and stillbirths.
	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u> <u>Total</u>
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	127 152 279

INFANT DEATHS (total)	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	1	3

INFANT DEATHS (Under 4 weeks) NIL.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE 11.1 per 1000 total live births.

PERCENTAGE OF ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS 4.8%

MATERNAL DEATHS One.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All age groups	90	100	190.

DEATH RATE.

Crude	13.5 per 1000 estimated population.
Adjusted	13.2 per 1000 estimated population.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTH RATE.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Urban District (adjusted)	17.6.	20.0	19.3	19.8	18.4
West Riding	16.7	16.9	16.7	16.5	15.4
England & Wales	16.5	16.4	16.1	15.7	15.0

STILL BIRTH RATE.

Urban District	32.3	22.5	39.7	29.6	25.1
West Riding	20.4	22.8	23.9	23.1	26.4
England & Wales	20.7	21.6	22.4	23.0	23.1

DEATH RATE.

Urban District (adjusted)	13.2	9.1	11.8	13.8	13.2
West Riding	12.7	13.0	12.7	12.9	12.3
England & Wales	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY.

Urban District	11.1	26.3	31.0	47.5	29.4
West Riding	24.0	24.4	26.4	27.1	26.2
England & Wales	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.8	24.9

The Principal causes of death are given below:-

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Acute poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
" " lung bronchus	1	-	1
" " breast	-	5	5
" " uterus	-	2	2
" " other sites	11	5	16
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	30	42
Coronary disease, angina	10	3	13
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	3	5	8
Other circulatory disease	12	11	23
Influenza	3	2	5
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis	13	4	17
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformation	-	3	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	12	17
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	5	3	8
Suicide	4	1	5
	90	100	190

Following the usual pattern of recent years the group of diseases made up of malignant new growths and including vascular lesions of the nervous system and diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounts for 67% of the total deaths.

The fatal case of acute poliomyelitis was in a young adult, unprotected by immunisation, and not notified as such before death.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHAPTER I	THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION	THE EARLY YEARS
1. The first settlers	The Pilgrims and the Puritans	The early years of the colonies
2. The growth of the colonies	The expansion of the frontier	The struggle for independence
3. The American Revolution	The Declaration of Independence	The war of 1812
4. The early years of the Republic	The Constitution and the early presidents	The growth of the nation
5. The expansion of the nation	The westward movement	The Civil War
6. The Civil War	The struggle for freedom	The Reconstruction era
7. The Reconstruction era	The struggle for equality	The Gilded Age
8. The Gilded Age	The rise of big business	The Progressive Era
9. The Progressive Era	The struggle for reform	The World War I era
10. The World War I era	The struggle for peace	The Roaring Twenties

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION

THE EARLY YEARS

INFANT MORTALITY.

The following table gives the cause of death of all infants under one year of age classified into age groups and sex.

Cause	Age Groups.		Male	Female	Total
	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months			
Broncho pneumonia	1	-	1	-	1
Congenital heart disease	1	-	-	1	1
Congenital metabolic disease	-	1	1	-	1
	2	1	2	1	3

This figure is the lowest for at least 10 years and the congenital diseases which caused two of the three deaths are not avoidable in the present state of our knowledge.

PART TWO.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following tables give details of the incidence of notifiable diseases:-

CASES CLASSIFIED INTO AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 yrs	15 - 24 yrs	25 - 34 yrs	35 - 44 yrs	45 - 64 yrs	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	65	80	98	1	-	-	-	-	-	254
Pneumonia	1	2	-	3	-	5	1	2	2	1	17
Dysentery	3	4	3	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	17
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	1	1	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	-	-	8
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	5
Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	16	72	88	108	1	18	6	5	6	3	323

DISEASES NOTIFIED IN TOWNSHIPS.

Township	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tuberculosis.		Totals
									Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	
Hemsworth	5	-	44	13	2	1	1	8	5	1	80
Fitzwilliam	-	-	119	2	11	-	5	-	-	-	137
Kinsley	6	-	91	2	4	-	3	-	-	-	106
Totals	11	-	254	17	17	1	9	8	5	1	323

CASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

Disease.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	11
Measles.	30	95	51	28	17	3	25	5	-	-	-	-	254
Pneumonia	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	1	-	3	3	4	17
Dysentery	2	-	-	1	1	3	-	2	-	5	-	3	17
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	8
Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	5
Non- Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	38	99	55	32	21	9	26	20	-	10	3	10	323

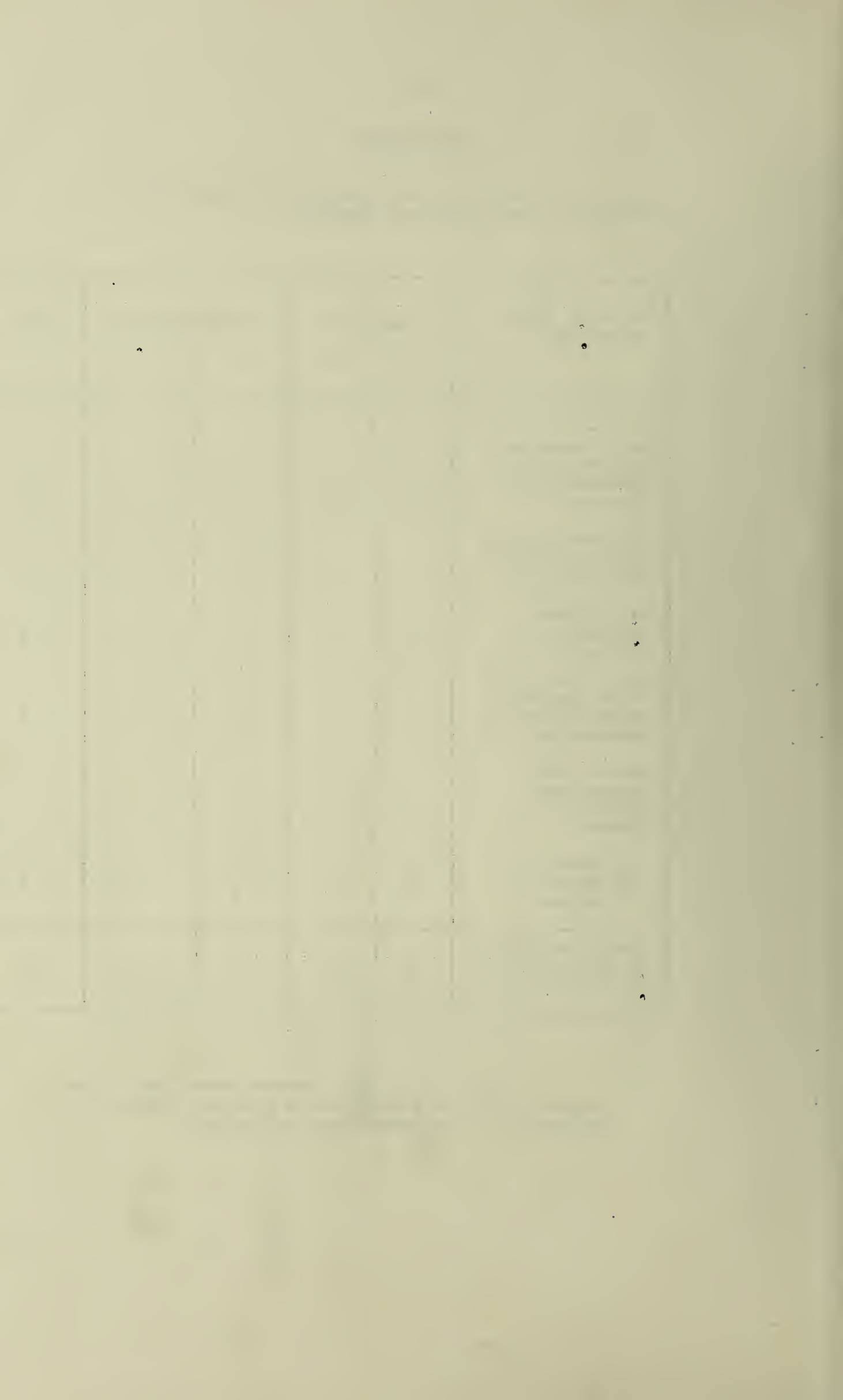
The prevalence of measles is largely responsible for the increase in number of notifiable diseases from 215 last year. There was regrettably an increase in notified cases of dysentery from 8 to 17 and from 3 to 9 food poisoning cases. One fatal case of acute poliomyelitis is listed in the table of causes of death. No other case of poliomyelitis was reported during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table summarises the particulars contained in the Tuberculosis Register:-

Number of cases on Register.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. of cases on Register at the commencement of the year	56	39	12	12	119
No. cases notified for the first time during the year	5	-	-	1	6
No. of cases restored to the Register	2	-	-	-	2
No. of cases added to the Register otherwise than by notification	-	1	-	-	1
No. of cases removed from Register through:-					
(a) Death.	1	-	-	-	1
(b) Recovered	1	-	2	1	4
(c) Removed	2	-	1	-	3
Totals remaining on Register at the year end.	59	40	9	12	120

8 cases (6 new and 2 restored) were added to the register and of the 8 cases removed from the register 4 had recovered and 3 had removed from the district.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

	Age at date of final injection.			
	Under 1	1 - 4 years.	5 - 14 years	Total
No. of children who completed a full initial course during 1959	165	20	-	185
No. of children who received booster injections during 1959	-	-	5	5

The encouraging improvement in immunisation rate noted last year has been maintained. 165 children under 1 year represents 61% of the 270 live births for the year. This is the same percentage as in 1958.

The following table shows the number of children at the 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1945.

Age at 31.12.59. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959.	1 - 4 58 - 55	5 - 14 54 - 45	Total Under 15
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster				
A 1955 - 1959	64	550	956	1570
B 1954 or earlier	-	-	1372	1372

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

	Age at date of final injection.			
	Under 1	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	Total
No. of children who completed a full initial course during 1959	163	12	-	175

The number of children under 1 year who received protective immunisation represents 60% of the live births for the year.

The following table shows the number of children at the 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of whooping cough immunisation at any time before that date.

Age at 31.12.59. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959	1 - 4 1958 - 55	5 - 9 54 - 50	10 - 14 49 - 45	Total Under 15
	62	624	551	24	1261

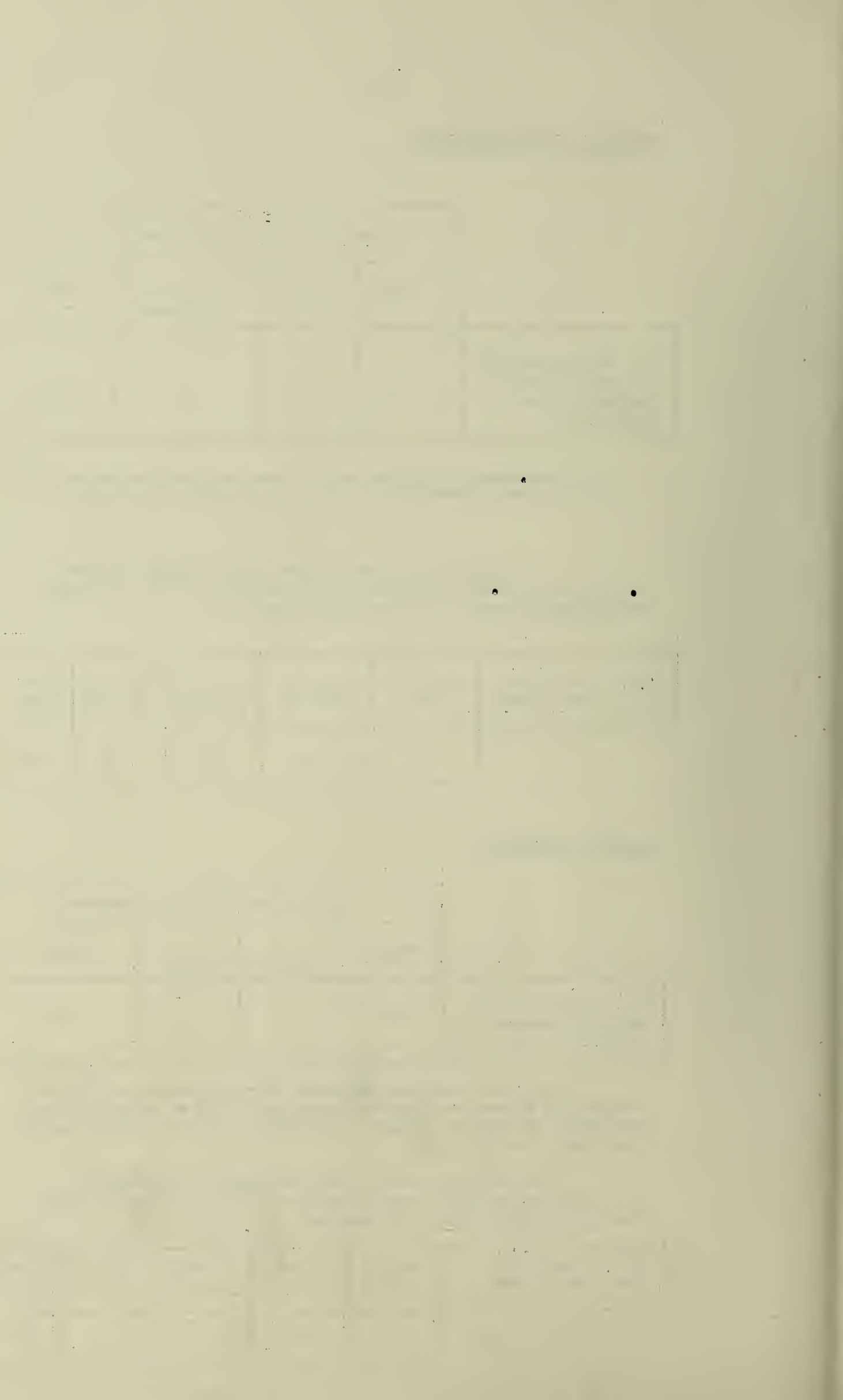
TETANUS IMMUNISATION.

	Age at date of final injection.			
	Under 1	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	Total
No. of children who received tetanus injections during 1959	156	10	-	166

As was to be expected following the introduction of "Triple" vaccine the figures for tetanus immunisation follow closely those for diphtheria and whooping cough. 156 under 1 year is 58% of the 270 live births for 1959.

The following table shows the number of children at the 31st December, 1959, who had received tetanus injections since they were recorded from 1958 onwards.

Age at 31.12.59. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959	1 - 4 58 - 55	5 - 9 54 - 50	10 - 14 49 - 45	Total Under 15
	62	265	-	-	327



VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

	Age at date of vaccination.		Total
	Age 16 years and under 1959 - 1943.	Age 17 years and over.	
No. who completed an initial course (2 injections) during 1959.	979	667	1646
No. who received a third booster injection during 1959	1653	218	1871

Plentiful supplies of vaccine except for a short period in the summer and the provision of evening sessions for immunisation has led to a fair response in the young adult group.

The following table shows the total number vaccinated against poliomyelitis since the inception of the scheme in 1956.

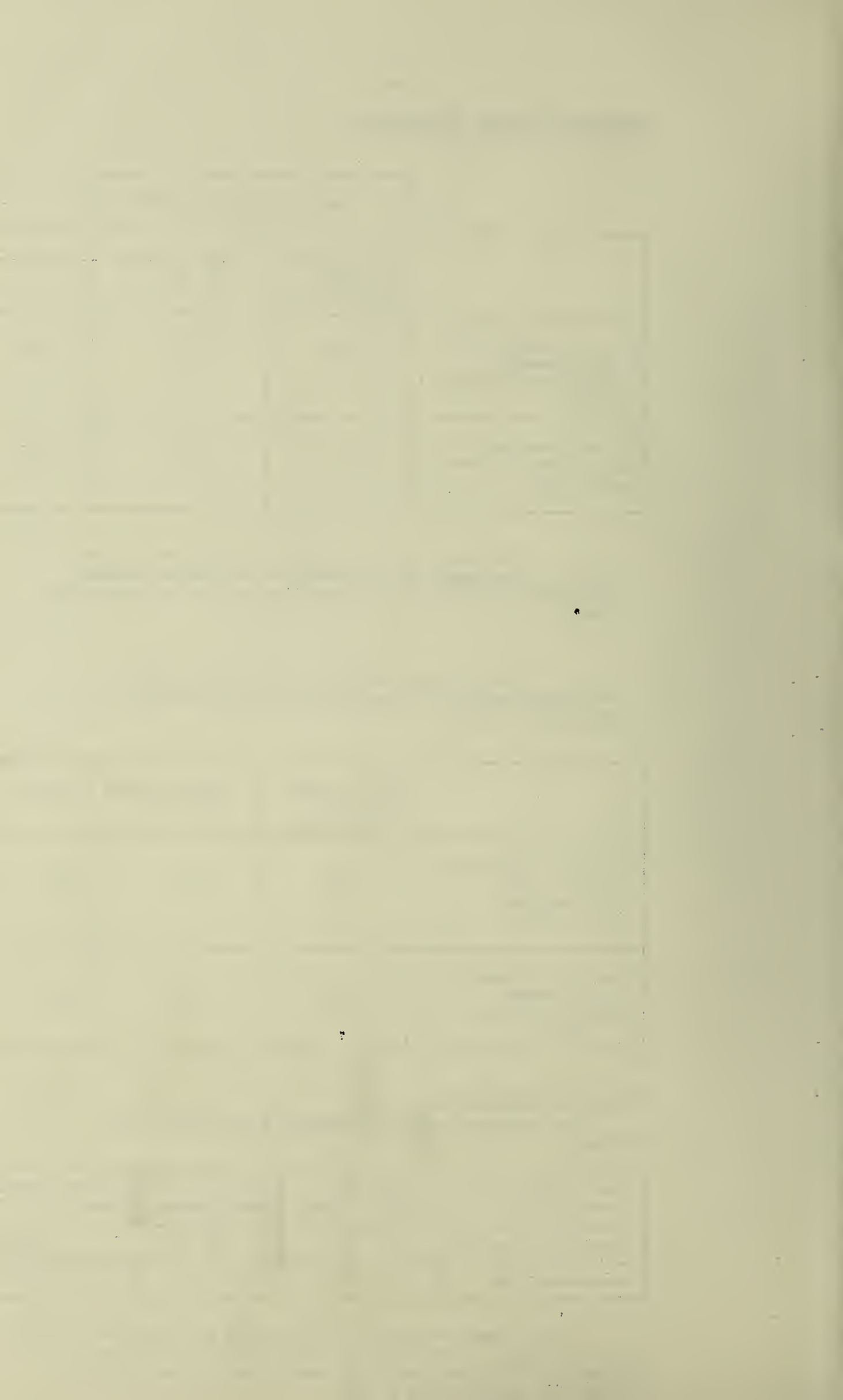
	Age 16 years and under 1959 - 1943.	Age 17 years and over.	Total
No. who completed an initial course (2 injections) since 1956.	2732	818	3550
No. who received a third booster injection since 1956	1539	218	1957

SMALL POX VACCINATION.

The number of persons vaccinated during 1959 is as follows:-

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1 year.	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	49	3	8	3	6	69
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	10	10

The primary vaccination rate under 1 year represents 18% of the births and is three times the rate of 1958. It compares unfavourably with the West Riding Administrative County rate of 35% and the national rate of 45%.



B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS. (13 YEAR OLD SCHOOL CHILDREN).

Acceptances.

No. of children under 14 years of age offered tuberculin testing and vaccination if necessary	350.
No. of acceptances	200
Percentage of acceptances.	57.14%

The acceptances rate has increased by ~~10%~~ and is now only slightly below the county figure of 61%

Pre-vaccination tuberculin tests.

No. of children tested		188.
Result of test:		
(a) POSITIVE	45.	
(b) NEGATIVE	134	
(c) Not ascertained	9	
	Total	188
Percentage positive		25.14%

VACCINATION.

No. vaccinated	134.
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TUBERCULIN TEST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER VACCINATION.

No. vaccinated 1958		140
No. tuberculin tested after 12 months		130.
(a) POSITIVE	127.	
(b) NEGATIVE	3.	
	TOTAL	130

PART III.

CARE OF MOTHERS, YOUNG CHILDREN AND NURSING SERVICES.

HEALTH VISITING.

The number of visits made by the two fully qualified Health Visitors and one Assistant Health Visitor in the district during 1959 was as follows:-

	<u>First visits.</u>	<u>Total visits.</u>
To Children under 1 year	220	1263
Children 1 - 5 years	-	1476
Tuberculosis cases	-	61
Others	-	1961
Totals:	220	4761

The practice of concentration of visits on homes where help and advice is most needed has continued during the year.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

These are held weekly at Hemsworth and Fitzwilliam and during the year 315 infants with their mothers made 3,698 attendances. A doctor and the local health visitor are present and help and expert advice is given on all aspects of the baby's health and feeding.

An ultra violet ray clinic was held at Hemsworth each week and during the year 62 children from the Urban and Rural Districts attended for treatment.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Weekly clinics are held at Hemsworth and Fitzwilliam with a doctor and the local midwives in attendance. 231 expectant mothers attended during the year.

A relaxation class for expectant mothers is held at Hemsworth weekly.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

Three fully qualified midwives and one relief midwife were employed in the district and during the year attended at 156 confinements. Gas and air analgesia was used in 121 cases and Pethidene in 72 cases.

MATERNITY HOMES.

123 women were confined away from home because of unsuitable home conditions or because of medical conditions requiring specialist care. Walton Hall Maternity Home, Manygates Maternity Hospital, Wakefield General Hospital and Southmoor Maternity Unit were the hospitals concerned.

CARE OF THE PREMATURE INFANTS.

14 live premature births were notified during the year, each case being specially investigated and advice and help given as required.

Details of survival of these infants are as follows:-

	Live	Still	24 hrs.	1 week	4 weeks	Survived over 4wks
Domiciliary	4	2	-	-	-	4
Institutional	10	3	-	-	0	10
Totals	14	5	-	-	-	14

Giving a survival rate of 100%

PART FOUR.

CARE, AFTER CARE AND PREVENTION OF ILLNESS.

HOME NURSING.

The district is divided into two nursing areas each covered by a full time Queen's trained nurse and with the assistance of a Divisional relief nurse. 7,118 visits were made to patients in their own homes.

Loans of nursing equipment (wheel chairs, bed rests, bed pans etc.) were made where necessary.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

<u>Type of case.</u>	<u>No. of cases.</u>	<u>Total hours employed.</u>
Maternity	1	333
Under 65 and chronic sick	7	378
Over 65 and chronic sick	118	16,251
Others	4	462
	130	17,424

90% of the cases and 93% of the total hours available, have been for the elderly.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

No. cases required action under the provisions of this Act during the year.

MENTAL HEALTH.

The number of patients under supervision and guardianship at 31.12.59. was as follows:-

Statutory supervision	-	28.
Voluntary supervision	-	6.
Guardianship	-	Nil.

HEMSWORTH OCCUPATION CENTRE.

During the year there were 8 new admissions and 4 discharges. The number on the roll at the end of the year thus increased to 49. The average attendance was 83.3%.

PART V.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The new Ambulance Depot at Lydgate, South Kirkby, was taken over in March 1959. One Depot Superintendent with 25 Driver/Attendants and two Telephonists, man eight vehicles. Details of the work done during the year are as follows:-

Total Out-Patients	22,531.
Accident cases	28.
Patients carried	28,806.
Stretcher cases	3,913.
Sitting cases	24,893.
Mileage travelled	210,138.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield, continued to provide satisfactory service equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations. It is a national service under the control of the medical research council.

PART VI.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

CLINICS.

A Consultant Clinic is held weekly at Hemsworth with an Assistant County Medical Officer and a health visitor in attendance.

At Fitzwilliam a Minor Ailments Clinic is held weekly where a health visitor is in attendance.

Clinic	No. of children treated.
Hemsworth	171
Fitzwilliam	86

These figures are for treatment only and do not include as in previous years cleansing of verminous heads.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Routine medical inspections were carried out during the year. Of 832 pupils examined 177 defects were found and 172 children referred for treatment.

CLEANLINESS INSPECTIONS.

Total number of examinations in
schools by school nurses 6,778.

Total number of individual pupils
found to be infested 187.

This is 2.7% of the total.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

2 cases from the Urban District attended the Child Guidance Clinic at Pontefract for treatment during the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

10 Consultant Clinics were held during the year and 58 children from the Urban and Rural Districts were dealt with. 45 treatment clinics were held at which 17 children made regular attendances

EYE CLINICS.

837 children from the Urban and Rural Districts attended 49 Eye Clinics held at the Hemsworth Clinic. 360 children were prescribed glasses.

SPEECH THERAPY.

152 sessions were held during the year and 55 cases from the Urban and Rural Districts were dealt with.

HEMSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1959.

-000-

Public Health Inspector's Department,
White Hall,
HEMSWORTH.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Daykin and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of your district for 1959. This my tenth Annual Report.

1. HOUSING.

(a) 4,147 dwellings were occupied within the three townships of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam which together comprise the Urban District.

52 new dwellings were occupied during the year. All were built for private ownership and all were sited at Hemsworth. They were sited as follows:-

Southmoor Road	-	42 bungalows.
Station Road	-	8 houses.
Barnsley Road	-	1 house.
Royd Moor	-	<u>1 house.</u>

52

4 old houses were demolished during 1959. They formed part of a block of 6 houses sited at Kinsley and were known as Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7 New Street. The number of dwellings within the district during the past four years may be classified as follows:-

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Council owned houses and bungalows	1664	1664	1647	1617
N.C.B. Estate houses let on a weekly tenancy	722	722	722	722
Owner/occupied houses and bungalows	926	727	721	717
Privately owned houses let on a weekly tenancy	735	986	990	1009

These figures show an increase in the number of dwellings listed as owner/occupied, and a corresponding decrease in those listed as privately owned and let on a weekly tenancy.

Apart from new dwellings built for owner/occupiers this was due to the landlord's preference for selling rather than for re-letting any house of which he recovered possession. The demand for accommodation - particularly from newly married couples with no prospect of a Council house tenancy for many years - ensured the disposal of most houses offered for sale within the District. As some of the houses were likely subjects for slum clearance, intending purchasers were wise to seek advice before completing the purchase.

The figures also show that no Council houses or bungalows were built during 1959. The Council, however, approved the provision of 20 - two bedroom bungalows, 4 - three bedroom houses and 16 - two bedroom maisonettes, providing a total of 40 dwellings which was the number allocated by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for 1959.

The Council's Architects were engaged throughout the year in the preparation of plans and estimates and in effecting all preparatory work prior to the development of the new site, viz. the "Southmoor Road/Highfield Road Estate", comprising in its initial stages some 10 acres. Work began on the construction of roads and sewers for this development towards the end of the year.

Government Housing Subsidies were not available for general housing needs, and the Ministry pursued its policy of forcing attention on the clearance of unfit dwellings by making subsidies available only for dwellings used directly or indirectly for the re-housing of families displaced from unfit houses.

Consequently, with a fixed allocation of new houses and with the need to take advantage of the housing subsidies, the Council's building programme was under a fairly rigid control - a fact which was sometimes not too readily appreciated by long standing applicants on the Council's Housing Lists.

The following figures make interesting comparisons and give one aspect of the growth of the district since 1921:-

	<u>No. of houses within the District.</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Persons per house.</u>
1921 (formation of U.D.C.)	2089	11,305	5.4
1938	3022	12,790	4.2
1959	4147	14,250	3.4

(b) Maintenance of Occupied House Properties.

(i) Council owned property (1,664 dwellings).

Maintenance was undertaken by the Council's own repair works staff working under the direction of the Council's Surveyor.

Four houses in Grove Lane were bought by the Council at the request of the owner and were subjected to a process of modernisation. The cost of this work amounted to £1,766 and was undertaken by the Council's own repair staff.

(ii) National Coal Board owned properties (722 houses)

Few complaints were received from National Coal Board tenants about defective housing conditions - a fair commentary I think on the efficiency of the National Coal Board's own maintenance department.

As a result of a planned improvement programme instituted by the National Coal Board's Housing Department centred at Grimethorpe, most National Coal Board houses have now been provided with a hot water supply, electricity and modern combination fire ranges.

Two terraces of property at Kinsley, viz. New Row and Outgang Terrace held on a limited lease by the National Coal Board, received essential maintenance treatment only, as it was felt that the properties were not suitable for large scale improvements.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. A. Norton, former foreman in charge of the National Coal Board's Maintenance Staff, for his readiness at all times to assist in housing matters affecting National Coal Board properties. Mr. Norton retired recently after many valuable years service at the Fitzwilliam Office.

(iii) Privately Owned Dwellings - Standard Grants.

The introduction of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 enabled certain owners of property to claim a grant from the Council to assist in effecting standard improvements to their properties. However, only 12 applications for grants had been received by the end of the year, 10 of which were approved and for which grants made by the Council amounted to £1,066. 0s. 2d.

(iv) Other Houses on a Weekly Tenancy (735 houses).

These houses are mainly terrace type houses, comprising 2 bedrooms, living room and scullery. Most of these properties were built some 60 to 80 years ago, and some of them are now in a poor structural condition.

These properties have never had the advantage of an organised maintenance staff because of the large numbers of owners involved, many of whom, during recent years have had difficulty in meeting increasing repair work costs essential to keep their properties in a reasonable state of repair.

The Rent Act, 1957 allowed landlords to increase rents to a fixed limit where their houses were in good repair, and by the end of 1959 most of the tenanted houses in the district had been subjected to a rent increase of approximately 5s. to 7s. per week although by no means were all the houses in a good condition.

However, a good deal of repair work has been undertaken by some owners since 1957 to take a fair advantage of the rent increases permissible, and to maintain their properties in a good condition.

Only two tenants made application for a "Certificate of Disrepair" as allowed by the Rent Act. They reported that their houses were not in good repair and that rent increases were not warranted while repair works were required. Many tenants, however, have accepted rent increases without ensuring that their houses are in good repair, and they should be reminded that they are entitled to apply for a "Certificate of Disrepair" at any time as a step towards effecting repair works. Even external re-painting of houses can be enforced and this undoubtedly adds much to the appearance of a house and district.

The Housing Act, 1957 and the Public Health Act, 1936 provided legislation for the enforcement of repair works to property held on a weekly tenancy. These powers were, of course, in addition to those available to tenants within the Rent Act, 1957. Complaints of defective housing conditions were investigated and, where necessary, brought to the attention of the owner or agent concerned. Non-compliance with informal requests for repair works was followed by Statutory action but most owners and agents responded readily and Statutory action was necessary on only three occasions.

(c) UNFIT HOUSES INCAPABLE OF REPAIR.

(i) The Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Housing Subsidy Scheme forced attention on defective houses throughout the country.

This policy was instituted in 1955 when Local Authorities were asked to submit a list of properties which should be demolished within 5 years and a list of properties which should be demolished within 15 years.

During 1959, 4 houses were demolished to add to the 55 houses demolished between the years 1955/58.

The following tables show the Council's amended 5 year and 15 year programme of demolition as from the 1st January, 1955. The position at the end of 1959 is also shown:-

5 Year Programme of Demolition.

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Number demolished</u>				<u>1959</u>	<u>No. to Demolish January, 1960.</u>
			<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>			
<u>Kinsley.</u>								
8-68 Fitzwilliam St.	31	4	25	-	2	-		Nil
16, Bond Street	1	1	-	-	-	-		Nil
2-36 New Street	18	-	-	18	-	-		Nil
1-11 New Street	6	-	-	-	-	4		2 (unoccupied)
<u>Fitzwilliam.</u>								
Bridge House,								
Newstead Lane	1	-	-	-	-	-		1
Newstead Cottage	1	-	-	-	-	-		1

	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Number demolished</u>				<u>1959</u>	<u>No. to Demolish January 1960.</u>
<u>Hemsworth.</u>			<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>			
5-13 Wakefield Road	5	-	-	-	4	1	Nil	
1-5 Green Hill	6	-	2	-	-	-	4 (3 unoccupied	
1 Highfield Road								
1-3 Barn Cottages	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	
6-18 Little Hemsworth	12	-	-	-	-	-	12 (6 unoccupied	
11-19, 27-33, 22 and	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	
43 Barnsley Road								
9-31 South Street	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	
25-39 York Street	8	-	-	-	-	-	8 (used for agricultural purposes)	
1-9 Shaftesbury Terrace	9	-	-	-	-	-	9	
The Marsh, Royd Moor	1	-	-	1	-	-	Nil	
	125	5	27	19	6	5	63	

15 Year Programme of Demolition.

Kinsley.

1-7 & 2-10 Ford Street	9	-	-	-	-	-		9
1-39 & 12-44 Bond Street	35	-	-	-	-	-		35
13-65 & 38-64 New Street	41	-	-	-	-	-		41
1-13 & 2-8 King Street	11	-	-	-	-	-		11

Hemsworth.

19-22 Little Hemsworth	4	-	-	-	-	-		4
1-23 & 2-28 Baylee Street	26	-	-	-	-	-		26
1-23 York Street	12	-	-	-	-	-		12
2-8 Union Street	4	-	-	-	-	-		4
1-31 Junction Street	16	-	-	-	-	-		16
2-8 & 1-7 Lilley Street	8	-	-	-	-	-		8
1-9 North View	5	-	-	-	-	-		5
3-11 High Street	5	-	-	-	-	-		5
10-18 Westfield Road	5	-	-	-	-	-		5
West End Cottages	2	-	-	-	-	-		2
2-6 Church Cottages	3	-	-	-	-	-		3
24 Barnsley Road	1	-	-	-	-	-		1
Vissett Cottage	1	-	-	-	-	-		1
Vissett Bungalows	4	-	-	-	-	-		4
	192	-	-	-	-	-		192

(ii) Properties remaining on the 5 year list for demolition were given careful consideration during 1959 and, following informal and statutory action, agreement was reached with a further 27 property owners concerned to close and to ultimately demolish their respective properties when their tenants were rehoused. 3 properties were closed and their tenants rehoused by the Council during the year.

It was unfortunate that little progress was achieved during 1959 as many of these houses were in an extremely unsatisfactory condition.

(d) Housing Statistics - Year 1959.

THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959 WERE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL RETURN TO THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

1. No. of dwelling houses in district - 4,147
2. No. of houses included in above:-
 - (a) Back-to-back - None
 - (b) Single back - 10

3. Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere.

No. of houses included in Representations made during the year

- (a) in Clearance areas - None
- (b) individual unfit houses - 2

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

<u>In Clearance Areas.</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons.</u>	<u>Families.</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	4	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas.</u>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957.	4	2	1
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	Nil	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	Nil	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

(8) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	2	4	2
(9) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(11) After informal action by Local Authority	37	Nil
(12) After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	2	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Acts, 1957	Nil	Nil
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of year	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of separate Dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil	Nil

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year.	Nil.	Nil

4. No. of families rehoused during the year into Council owned dwellings
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| (a) Clearance areas, etc. | - 2 |
| (b) Overcrowding | - Nil. |

5. RENT ACT, 1957.

- | | | |
|--|---|-----|
| (a) No. of certificates of disrepair granted | - | Nil |
| (b) No. of undertakings to execute repairs given
by owners to the local Authority | - | 4 |
| (c) No. of certificates of disrepair cancelled | - | Nil |

6. OVERCROWDING.

Any comments in connection with this problem - survey would be required to ascertain exact position in the district.

7. NEW DWELLINGS.

No. of new dwellings completed during the year:-

By the Local Authority - None. By Private Enterprise - 52

8. GRANTS FOR CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

	<u>Formal applications received during year.</u>	<u>Applications approved during year.</u>	<u>Number of dwellings completed during year.</u>
	<u>No. of dwellings</u>	<u>No. of dwellings</u>	
(a) CONVERSIONS (the number of dwellings is the number resulting from completion of the work)	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) IMPROVEMENTS	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) STANDARD GRANTS in operation	12	10	5

9. DETAILS OF ADVANCES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF ACQUIRING OR CONSTRUCTING HOUSES

Nil.

(e) Verminous and Dirty Houses.

Reports of unsatisfactory conditions of 9 houses were investigated. No houses were found to require treatment for vermin whereas by comparison 1 house required treatment in 1958, 26 in 1957 and 11 houses in 1956. I would hesitate, however, to suggest that our troubles were now over in this respect.

The main problem centres on dealing suitably with the so called "problem family" and the inevitably associated dirty housing conditions.

(f) Moveable Dwellings.

Caravans of all types were within this definition, and any site they occupied permanently were required to be licensed for the purpose. There were no licensed sites within the district and no demand for them. One site, adjoining Grove Lane, Hemsworth, however, was in demand by members of the Showmen's Guild during the winter months. Guild members have won a concession to site caravans subject to certain conditions with which they usually readily comply.

Two or three families occupying decrepit and extremely dirty caravans plagued the district from time to time. They were well known characters, always a source of trouble, and oddly enough thrived under the poor conditions in which they preferred to live. My efforts were directed to moving their caravans on - preferably out of the district - but as the adjoining authority's efforts were likewise directed, success was only shortlived.

(g) Lodging House.

Two storey premises at Union Street, Hemsworth, offering lodging accommodation to men registered for this purpose.

The premises have accommodation for 37 males available in two large and two small bedrooms, but the demand for beds has tended to decrease in recent years and only 27 men were in occupation at the end of 1959.

A resident Manager and his wife kept the premises in a clean condition and there were no grounds for complaint during visits of inspection. All works of repair were carried out promptly by the owner.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

(a) The following table shows the position within the District at the end of 1959, figures for recent years are shown for comparison:-

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
No. of houses within the district	4147	4099	4080	4065
No. of pedestal water closets	4975	4927	4900	4827
No. of waste water closets	4	5	5	5
No. of trough water closets	-	-	-	-
No. of pail or tub closets	13	13	13	13
No. of privies with covered middens or covered ashpits	13	15	15	19
No. of privies with open middens or open ashpits	-	-	-	-
No. of houses drained to cesspools	39	39	39	36
No. of houses drained to small sewage disposal plants	15	15	15	15

(i) Waste Water Closets.

There were 4 in use during the year, all sited at Hague Terrac, Hemsworth. They are a peculiar type of accommodation, relying on waste water from the house for flushing purposes. They have not proved satisfactory in the past and they are gradually being eliminated.

(ii) Privy Closets.

13 Privies were in use at the end of 1959, serving houses either due for demolition or houses so isolated that drainage to the Council's sewers was impracticable. 2 privies at Little Hemsworth were abolished during 1959. The remaining closets were sited as follows:-

Little Hemsworth	-	4
Royd Moor	-	4
Barnsley Road	-	1
Gorton Street, Kinsley	-	1
Kinsley Farm	-	1
Newstead, Fitzwilliam	-	2

(iii) Cesspools and Small Sewage Disposal Plants.

54 houses drained either to cesspools or to small sewage disposal plants. These properties were sited mainly in the Station Road and Robin Lane areas of Hemsworth beyond the limits of the Council's sewers. Many of the houses have been built within the past 20 years.

The 39 cesspools in use during 1959 were emptied from time to time by the Council's own mechanically operated vehicle which was fitted with suitable pumping apparatus. Cesspool contents were disposed of either at the old Rotherham Road refuse tip or on to farm land by request, but long runs by the vehicle to disposal points added to costs and, unfortunately, reduced the time available for street gully cleansing work for which the vehicle was also adaptable. The cost of emptying cesspools has risen throughout the past few years, the 1959 figures were relatively low due to the exceptionally dry year which means that little surface water penetrated defective cesspools and the need for emptying was thereby considerably reduced.

Year ending 31st March, 1960	£889.	13.	Od.
" 1959	£1150.	15.	1d.
" 1958	£1034.	15.	Od.
" 1957	£821.	16.	3d.
" 1956	£667.	17.	1d.

All except one of the 15 small sewage disposal plants which serve individual properties functioned satisfactorily during the year. The exception was a disposal plant serving 4 properties at Fitzwilliam Lane Ends and this plant was a source of nuisance from time to time.

Consideration was given to proposals to sewer the Station Road and Robin Lane areas at Hemsworth and thereby to eliminate cesspools and septic tanks in use within these areas. A scheme for dealing with the 4 properties at Lane Ends, Fitzwilliam, was also considered. However, as all these proposals were closely associated with general sewage disposal proposals for the whole Urban District, no definite schemes were approved by the end of the year.

(iv) Public Conveniences.

Plans for siting public conveniences at Cross Hill were submitted to the planning authorities during the year. The County Council Authority gave approval to the suggested use of site in June of the year.

(v) Drainage - General Position.

Separate sewage disposal works at Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam received the drainage of properties within the District.

As there have been no major works of improvement or development at any of the three sewage works in recent years to cope with the increased sewage brought about by the Council's Post-war building programme, gross overloading has occurred. The Council has been much concerned for many years about the need for large scale improvements but, unfortunately, delays outside their control have occurred in finalising a scheme for the whole of the District. However, it was pleasing to note a measure of progress during 1959 when the Council's Consulting Engineers reported on the merits of:-

- (1) "the ultimate closure of the Kinsley Sewage Works and the laying of a sewer from Kinsley to Hemsworth to the existing Hemsworth Sewage Works, including the possibility of utilising the new sewer to serve the proposed Mining and Technical Institute to be built at Hemsworth", as against
- (2) "the retaining and improvement of the existing Kinsley Sewage Works."

The Council decided that its policy should be to retain and to improve the Kinsley Sewage Works and to retain the Fitzwilliam Sewage Works. As a consequence, the Consultants revised the proposed scheme for the Hemsworth Sewage Works, estimating the cost of improvements to be £65,000. Application to borrow this sum of money was then made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Council were awaiting further developments at the end of the year.

3. NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

The following figures are relevant under this heading, and figures are shown for comparison from previous years:-

	1959	1958	1957	1956
No. of inspections for nuisances	620	769	848	582
Outstanding at the end of 1957	12	6	-	-
Nuisances found	261	365	387	315
Nuisances abated	258	322	377	337
No. of summonses or other legal proceedings	-	-	1	-
Informal notices complied with	258	322	377	313
Statutory notices served	2	35	35	30
Statutory notices complied with	3	35	32	20

This heading covers a wide variety of nuisances and inspections followed complaints made by individual householders. Choked drainage, infestations of crickets, flies, cockroaches, gooseberry mite, wood beetle, the offensive keeping of birds, dogs, cats and pigs, and offensive smells were some of the matters which required attention.

4. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Public Health Act 1936 defines certain trades as offensive trades. There were two such trades active within the District, both at Hemsworth. One concerned tripe dressing at Market Street, the other rag sorting, scrap bone and scrap metal dealing from premises in the Barnsley Road area.

The scrap yard occasionally gave rise to nuisance in warm weather when bones were not removed as often as was necessary. The processes associated with tripe dressing may be particularly offensive by way of smell; an installation designed and fitted at these premises by Industrial odour control specialists appeared to reduce the nuisance by smell and no complaints were received during 1959.

5. RATS AND MICE.

(a) 65 rat infestations and 18 mice infestations were dealt with during the year. All were small infestations which were eliminated by the use of the poison known as "Warfarin" served up in oatmeal sweetened with sugar.

Farm premises, allotment premises, piggeries, poultry houses, refuse tips, sewage works and any other premises with a likely appeal for rats and mice were regularly inspected by the Council's Rodent Control Operator. Careful inspection work and treatment of infestations undertaken during the past few years together with the fairly recent introduction of "Warfarin" as a poison has gone a long way towards eliminating the rat and mouse population. Inspection work must of course, continue.

(b) Sewer Control.

In view of the negative results from the baiting of the sewers undertaken towards the end of 1958, it was not considered necessary to repeat this work during 1959. However, where rat infestations were found on premises adjoining sewers and drains, the drainage was treated as a matter of routine.

(c) Threshing of Ricks.

When ricks were threshed your Operator usually found time to visit the farm premises concerned. Contractors engaged on this work were required to net around the ricks to prevent any rats or mice escaping. Few ricks were found to be infested, confirming the belief that rat and mouse infestations are not what they used to be.

(d) The Council continued its representation on the Barnsley and District Workable Area Committee. This Committee discussed rodent control problems and enabled local authorities to obtain expert advice.

(e) Rodent Control Costs.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has paid 50% of the cost of work on rodent control in recent years. No direct grant was made for the year ending 31st March, 1960 and the figure shown is the total cost involved.

		£	s.	d.
Year ending 31st March, 1960	-	283.	3.	9.
"	1959	- 162.	3.	3.
"	1958	- 146.	5.	6.
"	1957	- 113.	12.	7.

6. WATER SUPPLY.

Every dwelling within the Urban District had a piped supply of water, provided through the services of the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee comprising representatives of the Hemsworth Rural and Urban District Councils. The supply was actually taken from the Barnsley Corporation Water supplies and was received from the Midhope Reservoir in the Derbyshire Hills. It was understood that the surface water supplies at the Reservoir were augmented by supplies from one borehole and that the proportion of borehole to surface water was one part - $11\frac{1}{2}$ parts. The water supply generally was of a soft nature but it was also understood that the character of the Barnsley water would undergo a change as additional borehole water supplies were developed and that with the probability of water from the Yorkshire River Derwent being brought to the area in future years, the nature would be further altered.

Estimated hardness figures submitted by the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee during the year were as follows:-

	<u>Temporary Hardness.</u>	<u>Permanent Hardness.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Barnsley Supply	18	35	53
River Derwent (Estimated)	20	80	100
Pontefract (for comparison)	120	60	180.

While the purity of the supply was unquestioned, the sufficiency was again a constant subject of comment. Many dwellings in the higher reaches of the district were without water for long periods and many complaints were received by the Council during the year.

However, the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee were able to report progress on the provision of new water mains to the district and to advise that their Consulting Engineers had completed plans for the construction of additional surface reservoirs which were calculated to bring about a major improvement to the water supplies of the district.

7. FOOD ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION.

(a) Many of the shops preparing or selling food within the district maintained a good standard of cleanliness. In some cases, the standard was particularly high and letters of congratulation were sent to the shop-keepers concerned. There were defaulters, however, where carelessness in the handling of food was apparent. Some food handlers persisted in smoking as they handled food stuffs; hand washing was not always carried out when necessary and flies were noted at some premises to have a free access to open foodstuffs. These are matters which must have the careful and continual attention of food handlers.

The customer too surely has a part to play in the cleaner food campaign and should strongly object to unhygienic practices.

(b) Canteens.

Many thousands of meals were prepared, cooked and served from canteens within the district during the year, and an extremely efficient and carefully controlled task it all was. Parents of school children would, I feel sure, be delighted with the high standard of food hygiene maintained at the school canteens within the district; certainly on no occasion was there room for complaint in this respect.

Canteens at the Colliery, and at local factory premises also maintained a good hygienic standard.

(c) Unsound foodstuffs.

Shopkeepers occasionally found unsatisfactory tinned foods among their stocks. Inspections of this type of foodstuffs were usually asked for by the shopkeeper and a certificate listing the unsound foods usually ensured renewal of the unsatisfactory foodstuffs.

Occasionally, and usually inadvertently unsound foodstuffs are sold. One such instance occurred during 1959 when it was reported that a quantity of imported apples in the course of distribution by a local wholesaler had been contaminated by an arsenical spray. Contamination had, of course, occurred before the apples were received by the local wholesaler. Immediate action was taken to have the apples withdrawn for treatment although by then many had been supplied to various shops in adjoining local authorities areas, fortunately all were recovered and there was no harm done.

(d) Meat Inspection Work.

The carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered for human consumption have been subjected to a standard routine method of inspection for many years. This work has been undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors of Local Authorities.

The butchers within your district have long enjoyed a wide reputation in the meat wholesaling trade and there were few towns over a radius of many miles which did not receive meat from one or other of the slaughterhouses within the Hemsworth Urban District during 1959.

Four slaughterhouse premises were in regular use during the year requiring daily visits for meat inspection duties. Evening inspection work was often required and Sunday inspection work was not infrequent during the year to enable the wholesaling business concerned to satisfy the early Monday morning trade.

It was a good quality animal slaughtered at all four slaughterhouses; the handling of animals prior to slaughter was always satisfactory and the preparation of the carcasses, meat and offals for sale was undertaken in a good hygienic manner.

Parasitic conditions in the lungs and livers of cattle and sheep were the main sources of condemnation during 1959 and a good deal of food wastage occurred. There was no noticeable reduction in the incidence of this type of infections during the year.

During recent years, a careful inspection has been made for the presence of small cysts in certain muscles of slaughtered cattle. 59 carcasses were found during 1959 with cysts in either the muscles of the head or heart; many of the cysts were decomposed and the careful and detailed examination of affected carcasses never revealed more than the one cyst originally found.

Tuberculosis once the major scourge of animal infection and a major cause of carcase condemnation was well on the way out during 1959. The incidence of tuberculosis has declined remarkably quickly over the past few years, attributable entirely to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme 1950 which was introduced with the firm intention of clearing tuberculosis from all herds of cattle within the Country. While there were instances of tuberculosis in the carcasses of cattle during 1959, these mainly occurred during the early part of the year and there was a remarkable decrease in the number of cases almost down to negligible proportions by the end of the year. 1960 figures for condemnations attributable to tuberculosis are expected to be virtually nil, in remarkable contrast to figures which can be produced for recent years.

The following figures show the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected at the four slaughterhouses within your district during 1959.

<u>Location of Slaughterhouse.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>
1. Market Street, Hemsworth.	3214	2357	8238
2. King Edward Street, Hemsworth.	221	424	516
3. Springfield Villa, Hemsworth.	134	191	174
4. Little Hemsworth, Hemsworth.	264	237	455
	3833	3209	9383

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. of animals killed	2276	1557	-	9383	3209
No. of animals inspected	2276	1557	-	9383	3209
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1204	687	Nil	2714	306
% number inspected with disease other than tub- erculosis and cysticerci.	52.9%	44.12%	Nil	29%	9.53%
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	154	250	Nil	Nil	49
% number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.85%	16.1%	Nil	Nil	1.5%
<u>Cysticercosis only:-</u>					
No. of Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	21	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1.67%	1.35%	-	-	-

Among the meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1959 were the following:-

Cattle.

3 whole carcasses and all organs	- Generalised tuberculosis.
8 part-forequarters	- Localised tuberculosis.
222 heads	- Tuberculosis, Abscesses, Actinomycosis, C. Bovis.
58 tongues	- Actinomycosis, C. Bovis.
849 livers	- Cirrhosis, Abscesses, Tuberculosis etc.
950 part-livers	- Cirrhosis, (parasitic action).

702	lungs	-	Tuberculosis, Parasitic, Inflammation etc.
6	stomachs and intestines	-	Tuberculosis.
90	udders	-	Inflammation.
37	hearts	-	C. Bovis, Inflammation.

Pigs.

39	whole carcasses and all organs	-	Tuberculosis.
11	plucks	-	Tuberculosis.
306	lungs	-	Inflammation. tuberculosis.
12	livers	-	Tuberculosis.

Sheep.

Part	carcase	-	Bruising etc.
2714	lungs	-	Parasitic, Abscesses, Inflammation.
104	livers	-	Parasitic.

The total weight of meat and offals unfit for human consumption was approximately 17 tons 13 cwts., 26.8% of which was due to tuberculosis.

The figures of condemnation appear rather heavy but they compare favourably with those of recent years mainly due to the reduced incidence of tuberculosis.

(e) Disposal of Unsound Meat and Offals.

Fortunately, there were certain firms engaged in processing unsound meat and offals in the manufacture of feeding stuffs, fertilisers etc., otherwise the disposal of some 17½ tons of this sort of material would have produced a major problem by way of disposal.

Collections were undertaken daily, or as required by the processing firms and there was no nuisance from the temporary storage of unsound meat, offals, even during the unusually warm summer months of 1959.

Precautions were taken to ensure that unsound meat and offals were used only for processing purposes.

(f) Slaughterhouses.

Owners of slaughterhouses were made aware of the provisions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958. Both sets of regulations operated from the 1st January, 1959 requiring a higher standard of slaughterhouse construction and hygienic practices. Detailed inspections were made of the slaughterhouses in the light of the new regulations and consultations took place with owners about works necessary to bring slaughterhouses into line with modern requirements. All owners intimated that their respective premises would be made to comply. The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food asked for a detailed report on all 4 slaughterhouses to be submitted to them before 1st November, 1960; a report was in the course of preparation at the end of 1959 and consideration was being given to a date by which the existing slaughterhouses would be required to comply with the Regulations.

Meanwhile the slaughter of animals at the slaughterhouses was conducted satisfactorily and no nuisance arose from the use of any premises.

18 slaughtermen were licensed by the Council during the year.

(g) Milk.

All milk retailed within the district was sold in sealed bottles, and was one or other of the designated milks, i.e. "tuberculin tested", "pasteurised" or "sterilised".

Milk production at the farms within the district was administrated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Licences to deal in the retail sale of milk were issued by the Council as follows:-

(i) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953.

Number of licences in force for:-	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary.</u>
(a) Pasteurised	4	3
(b) Sterilised	17	3

(ii) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of licences in force for:-	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
(a) Tuberculin tested milk	-	-

33 inspections were made of milk licensed premises during the year. All bottled milk retailed within the district was supplied from licenced dairy premises in adjacent large towns.

Distribution methods were satisfactory as the objectionable practice of dumping bottles of milk on open land to await distribution had been abolished during the previous year.

Sampling of milk was not undertaken within the district during 1959 as the Public Health Laboratory Service at Wakefield advised that the supplies were already subjected to sampling at various dairy premises.

(h) Icecream.

37 shops sold paper wrapped icecream and ice lollies from suitable refrigerators. All the shops were registered for this purpose by the Council. There were no manufacturers of icecream within the district.

Travelling vans also retailed icecream and vendors were required to be registered for this purpose. Most vendors sold a wrapped product although there was a demand for unwrapped icecream. As with other open foodstuffs, the cleanliness of the article depended ultimately on the ice cream service: icecream vans carried hand washing facilities and icecream van attendants were urged to make use of them.

Sampling of icecream undertaken in past years was not undertaken during the year as the Public Health Laboratory Service again advised that samples were already being taken at the various sources of manufacture.

(i) Shops Act 1950 - Section 38.
Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities in shops.

Administration of this section of the Shops Act 1950 was within the Council's jurisdiction. Where shop inspections were made, facilities provided for the use of employees were found to be sufficient, though some carelessness was noted in the maintenance and cleanliness of the facilities. Shop employees obviously should ensure that the accommodation provided is always serviceable.

8. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

(a) The Clean Air Act 1957 envisaged the setting up of smokeless zones wherever practicable as soon as possible in local authority districts; there was to follow a gradual extension of zones until ultimately whole districts were complete smokeless areas. In 1959, many local authorities, did, in fact designate a part or parts of their districts a "smokeless zone", but it was felt that most were Local Authorities facing no serious pollution problems, and they were not Authorities in the heart of a coal mining area, with the majority of the occupiers of houses enjoying a longstanding concessionary house coal supply, and with the livelihood of the people closely associated with the winning and the use of coal. These were facts very much in the mind of the Council whenever the subject of atmospheric pollution was broached. The Council decided to support a West Riding Urban District Councils' Association's ^{Executive resolution} pressing to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the view that a satisfactory solution of the miners' concessionary coal problem was a pre-requisite to the submission of a planned programme for smokeless zones, and that the Minister should take action at National level to solve this problem. In the meantime, no support for any local action was at all likely to receive consideration by the Council.

The main sources of pollution within the districts during 1959, apart from household chimneys were:-

- (i) Coke Oven Battery at Fitzwilliam.
- (ii) Hemsworth Colliery Boiler Chimneys at Fitzwilliam.
- (iii) Spoil Heaps at Fitzwilliam.
- (iv) Brickworks Chimney at Hemsworth.
- (v) Southmoor Hospital Laundry Chimney at Hemsworth.

Coke Oven Battery at Fitzwilliam.

By far the largest source of air pollution was the Coke Oven Battery at Fitzwilliam. This plant is sited relatively close to house property, schools and to the main road running through the district, and its size and the very nature of its operation such that pollution was apparent most of the time. Fortunately, only one "shut down" of the battery occurred during the year for emergency repair work when all products of combustion from the battery went to atmosphere. On this occasion, the wind direct^{ion} was favourable, carrying fumes away from the Fitzwilliam and Kinsley districts into open country. This type of plant was within the administration of the Alkali Works Inspectorate whose Inspector^{for} this district is centred at Sheffield. The Council was advised that the local Coke Oven Battery incorporated all known equipment to minimise fumes and smoke emissions, and the Management maintained that every effort was made to reduce emissions to a minimum.

Boiler Chimneys.

Chimneys serving boilers at the Hemsworth Colliery and Southmoor Hospital were a nuisance by the emission of black smoke from time to time. Both the National Coal Board and Hospital Authorities had schemes afoot for the provision of suitable, alternative, mechanically fired installations to abate the nuisance.

At the Colliery, the offending boilers^{the} were, in fact mechanised before the end of the year and nuisance there was virtually eliminated.

At Southmoor Hospital, the proposal to site a new boiler house and instal new boilers had the Council's approval; a chimney height of 80ft. was substituted at the Council's request for the one of 60 ft. originally designed for the chimney to serve the new boilers. The work of reorganisation will probably be completed during 1960.

Experiments were being carried out during the year at the Hemsworth Brickworks with alternative methods of firing in an attempt to reduce smoke emissions from the chimney but a satisfactory solution had not been found by the end of 1959.

Spoil Heaps at Fitzwilliam.

The spoil heaps at Fitzwilliam have been on fire for many years. They are within a few hundred yards of Ackworth properties within the Hemsworth Rural District and any complaint about a nuisance from smoke and fumes was usually made by Ackworth residents. The National Coal Board advised that they tried to keep fires under control by a system of water sprays but that even though the stacks were isolated, deliberate and wilful damage occurred to water spray equipment from time to time by trespassers and it was not always possible to renew damaged equipment immediately.

Railway Engines.

added

The Colliery locomotives often/heavily to pollution in the Fitzwilliam area and the local National Coal Board management were urged to take all steps possible to reduce emissions. Obviously the co-operation of the engine drivers must be obtained before any real improvement can be achieved and maintained.

Road Transport.

Road transport in the form of diesel vehicles was a continual nuisance. Apart from the danger to other traffic by obstructing visibility, diesel exhaust fumes were a source of annoyance to pedestrians, and though there appears to be no proven danger to health, they are anything but pleasant.

(b) Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.

Measurements of soot fall were recorded at Vale Head Park, Hemsworth. The following figures show soot fall readings from this equipment.

Comparative figures for previous years are shown.

<u>Soot fall Readings - Vale Head Park.</u>			<u>Tons per square mile.</u>		
	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955.</u>
January	11.87	11.41	10.25	13.45	11.26
February	5.84	11.14	14.11	17.34	16.54
March	11.84	9.37	8.20	7.61	13.87
April	12.71	7.50	12.79	11.68	7.44
May	16.88	12.51	14.25	9.17	14.91
June	11.34	14.01	17.65	16.33	9.63
July	9.17	15.84	23.77	16.19	7.75
August	8.70	10.54	15.64	8.79	5.87
September	8.04	10.57	9.90	13.90	10.22
October	7.74	11.37	10.15	10.98	18.77
November	10.01	10.81	Bowl broken	9.35	14.28
December	10.24	11.54	8.40	13.31	11.15
			124.38	136.61	145.11
			for 11 months		
			148.10	141.69	

1954 - 144.70 tons per square miles.

1953 - 145.42 tons per square miles.

The 1959 figures of pollution in the region of Vale Head Park suggest that an improvement is being achieved in reducing local air pollution. Mechanisation of Colliery boilers and improvements effect other industrial boiler users within the district and adjacent districts in recent years should now be apparent.

Sootfall readings however were not taken at Fitzwilliam where figures would presumably prove to be extremely heavy by way of comparison with Vale Head Park.

Many local authorities have recorded gauges within their districts. The gauge at Vale Head Park was installed a few years ago by the County Council and who also maintains the equipment. The attention required monthly to the quipment was carried out by my Department and the examination of the equipment was undertaken by a Bradford Analyst.

9. FACTORIES.

32 premises were registered as factories within the district. 26 factories were classified as having mechanical power for the processes involved and the remaining 6 were recorded as factories without mechanical power other than for lighting and heating purposes. Two building sites were subject to the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937.

113 visits of inspection were made to the factory premises during 1959. Particular attention was given to the provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation available for the use of the employees and to the general standard of cleanliness of the factory premises.

The following information was submitted to the Ministry of Labour with regard to the inspection of factories within the district during 1959:-

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1-6 of the Factories Act 1937 are to be enforced by local authority i.e. factories with no mechanical power	6	16	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 to which Section 7 applies (sanitary accommodation) i.e. factories with mechanical power.	26	93	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises under the Act i.e. Works of building etc.	2	4	Nil	Nil

Sections 1 - 7 of the Factories Act, 1937 refer to cleanliness, ventilation, drainage of floors and sanitary conveniences respectively,

Particulars of cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied.
1. Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil
2. Insufficient sanitary conveniences	Nil	Nil.
3. Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	Nil	Nil.
4. Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil.

OUTWORK - Section 110 and 111.

(Outwork being work undertaken at dwellinghouses on behalf of factory premises) - Nil.

10. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifiable disease were reported by the Medical Officer of Health's Department for investigation. Dysentery notifications required a detailed investigation and often a repeated submission of faeces samples to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Wakefield.

11. PETROLEUM STORAGE.

13 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum. It was considered advisable to ask the County Fire Service's Fire Precaution Department to undertake an inspection of all licensed petroleum storage premises; a comprehensive report was eventually received during the year. Any contravention of the Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928 and 1936 was brought to the notice of the owner of the premises concerned and any works required were carried out before the Annual License was renewed.

The Fire Service Department undertook to advise on any new storage premises before recommending the Council to issue an Annual License.

12. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Refuse Collection.

A weekly refuse collection service was given and maintained to all properties throughout the year irrespective of adverse weather conditions and of difficulties associated with vehicle repairs and holidays, and sickness among the refuse collecting staff. The refuse collectors carried out a non too easy task expeditiously and deserved congratulations in this respect.

4 - side loading Ford vehicles were regularly engaged on refuse collection. A fifth vehicle - a convertible Karrier cesspool/refuse collecting vehicle - was occasionally brought into use, usually following Bank Holidays or when any regular used vehicle was out of service undergoing repair.

Maintenance of vehicles was undertaken by a local private garage concern who also installed a diesel engine to replace a petrol engine in the largest of the Council's Refuse Collecting Vehicles during the year.

The refuse collecting service was extended to cope with the new Southmoor Road Estate of privately owned bungalows at Hemsworth. New housing by way of detached and semi-detached dwellings entails comparatively longer walks to and from each property for emptying household dustbins, so that an estate of some 50 houses requires a far longer time for service than is required for a street of 50 houses. The additional work involved in dealing with the new estate was undertaken by the existing refuse collection staff.

With the proposed addition of other new dwellings within the district, refuse collection costs will tend to increase.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

All refuse, other than salvageable waste paper, was disposed of by tipping on to disused land at the Hemsworth Brickyard Quarry. Efforts were always made throughout the year to work to long established controlled tipping methods considered necessary to minimise nuisances from fires, smell, flies, rats etc. Layers of refuse were deposited to a depth of about 6 feet over a width of some 15 yards to enable the refuse tip man employed to readily control disposal. I believe disposal was carried out in a reasonably successful manner and no complaints were received from occupiers of houses which were sited within 100 yards of the tip.

The space which has been available for use at the Brickyard has been limited to little more than one acre although the depth of the tipping space was originally about 40 feet in some places. In view of the decreasing amount of tipping space it was necessary to give consideration to future tipping sites during the year. A small extension to the existing site at the Brickworks was obtained before the end of 1959 but as long term disposal sites were required the use of a few acres of low-lying land adjacent to Vale Head Park, Hemsworth, owned by the Council was considered as was the use of a repeatedly flooded 9 acre site at Pontefract Road, where the farmer/owner concerned was prepared to allow tipping refuse in an attempt to reclaim the field. This latter offer was accepted by the Council and the planning authorities and Yorkshire Ouse Catchment Board eventually gave approval for the use of the field which held promise of 3 - 4 years tipping of refuse. Together with some 5 acres of land adjacent to Vale Head Park available for tipping of refuse, it would appear that the problem of refuse disposal had now been solved for the next 10 years.

Projects of land reclamation by the use of domestic refuse involve the lifting of the existing top soil, the depositing of household refuse at the required depth and the replacement of soil. This work requires mechanical equipment for success. I and the Council bought suitable soil removing equipment in the form of a 'J.C.B. Loadall' towards the end of the year. The machine was welcomed not only for its ability to cope with earth moving requirements but because it was available for use to seal off the refuse tip to prevent damage by trespassers and nuisances by fire, smell, flies, etc..

(c) Costs.

The costs of refuse collection and disposal for the financial year ending 31st March, 1960, are shown in comparison with costs of recent years.

	<u>1959/60.</u>			<u>1958/59.</u>			<u>1957/58.</u>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1. Wages	5303.	4.	1.	5269.	19.	8.	5268.	6.	11.
2. Petrol	481.	1.	10.	704.	19.	1.	704.	11.	8.
3. Diesel	73.	12.	8.	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Oil	35.	17.	8.	9.	11.	1.	9.	7.	0.
5. Repairs, Ins. and Licences	971.	5.	3.	753.	9.	4.	723.	11.	4.
6. Use of Cesspool convertible refuse collector	520.	14.	7.	417.	0.	0.	413.	9.	9.
7. Stores, prot- ective clothing etc.	340.	0.	6.	206.	0.	9.	275.	2.	8.
8. Use of Earth moving equip. tracto.	122.	12.	11.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7848.	9.	6.	7360.	19.	11.	7394.	9.	4

(d) Salvage.

Waste paper was salvaged from household refuse wherever practicable, and was baled at the Southmoor Road Depot, Hemsworth, by means of a hand operated baling press which made bales weighing approximately 1 cwt. As in previous years, the paper was sold in 4 or 5 ton lots to a Bradford Waste Paper Merchant.

1959 sales of waste paper are as shown in comparison with those of recent years.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Average per ton.</u>	<u>Total Receipts.</u>
1959	62.	3.	0.	£6. 10. 0.	£403. 19. 5.
1958	57.	4.	1.	£6. 10. 0.	£371. 14. 10.
1957	42.	2.	2.	£6. 10. 0.	£272. 16. 3.
1956	47.	16.	0.	£6. 14. 0.	£320. 0. 0.
1955	52.	0.	2.	£7. 9. 0.	£386. 7. 3.
1954	48.	17.	1.	£6. 5. 0.	£306. 7. 9.

13. CONCLUSION.

I am indebted once again to Mr. Wheeler, my assistant, for a good deal of the information collated from records kept during the year. Mr. Wheeler began his final year of study at the Sheffield College of Technology during September 1959 towards qualifying for the Certificate authorising the appointment of a Public Health Inspector.

In conclusion may I offer my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kind interest and support given me during 1959. I should like also to thank the Medical Officer of Health for his support, Mr. Wheeler who has been of real assistance throughout the year and also the indoor and outdoor staff of the Council for their ready co-operation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

C.H. SEAL,

Public Health Inspector.

